

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

*Noted
by 11/14*

Applicants thank Examiner Miller for the helpful and courteous discussion of October 22, 2003. During the discussion, Applicants' U.S. representative described the invention optical recording medium and the benefits derived therefrom in comparison to prior art optical recording media. Applicants' U.S. representative discussed the inclusion of a new drawing.

The presently claimed optical recording medium provides a way by which manufacturers of optical recording media can imprint or mark their product with, for example, a trademark, trade name or other trade dress in a manner that does not interfere with the later placement of a printed layer on the trademark, trade name or trade dress.

Conventional optical recording media may be marked (e.g., may have a pattern placed thereon) by, for example, conventional printing techniques such as ink-jet printing. While this is an effective means for marking the optical recording medium with the manufacturer's trade information, it may substantially interfere with the later placement of a second printed layer on top of the manufacturer's printed trade information. This problem may arise because the printed layers may inter-diffuse or dissolve in one another thereby providing a pattern that has a smeared appearance. The claimed optical recording medium provides an optical recording medium that allows marking with a pattern (which may include trade or marketing information) in a manner that does not interfere with the later printing of a second pattern thereon.

Applicants have claimed an optical recording medium having a print-receiving layer having a pattern present thereon wherein both the print-receiving layer and the pattern comprise a cation resin. The pattern may be a pattern of concaves and/or convexes present on/in the surface of the print-receiving layer or areas of different color on/in the print-receiving layer (the pattern may be both on and in the print-receiving layer). Regardless of

the manner in which the pattern manifests itself on/in the print-receiving layer, the claimed optical recording medium having a pattern is still in a virgin printing condition and thereby allows any later printing operation to provide a high quality pattern (e.g., image).

Claims 1-14 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 2000-57653 (Fujio). The Fujio reference is drawn to:

An optical recording medium suitable for printing characteristics of a full-color liquid ink jet printer by forming a print accepting layer on an outermost layer from a UV setting resin composition containing a cation resin and fine particles in a specified range of the particle size (see English abstract).

Fujio does not disclose an optical recording medium having a pattern wherein the pattern comprises a cation resin. In fact, the English abstract of the Fujio reference does not describe an optical recording medium having a pattern as presently claimed.

In the paragraph [0014] of the machine English translation of Fujio it is disclosed:

Hereafter, this invention is explained in detail. A fundamentally different point of the printing acceptance layer in the optical recording medium of this invention and the conventional printing acceptance layer is the ink absorption mechanism of an ink jet printer.

Fujio is drawn to media formed from resins that allow good ink absorption. Fujio does not contemplate the presence of a pattern on the print-receiving layer in the manner presently claimed. Therefore, while Fujio may disclose an optical recording medium that is suitable for printing a pattern thereon, Fujio does not disclose an optical recording medium wherein a pattern present on/in the print-receiving layer is itself a suitable print-receiving layer.

The Fujio reference cannot anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention since the reference does not disclose one of the elements of the presently claimed invention. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is therefore not sustainable.

Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection.

A proposed new drawing is submitted concurrently herewith responsive to the Office Action of July 23 2003.

Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection and the passage of all now-pending claims to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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